CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 7 TORONTO, FEBRUARY 10, 1943 $2.00 Per Annum

Yearly Theatre Inspection Out

Shows Excepted From Ruling, Halls Must Meet Regulations

Province of Ontario and City of Toronto officials have omitted theatres from having to submit an okay of all wiring, etc., before renewal of annual licences. In keeping with the decision, the Toronto Licence Department has issued licences, held up for a month while an imposed checkup was discussed by city and provincial officials, to exhibitors who had money on file pending results.

The Province of Ontario, however, will require all halls in its jurisdiction to present a Hydro okay and a favorable report on exits and entrances by a compe-

(Continued on Page 2)

Show Drive for Fat Under Way

Theatre participation in the drive for fat drippings and renderings has opened in the West to good results. In Winnipeg it is estimated that special salvage matinees will yield some 20 tons, which means about 4,000 pounds of glycerine to be used in munition making. A fat matinee in Bran-

(Continued on Page 2)

Geo. 'Pop' Philip Reaches Eighty

Convalescing from a recent illness that confined him to a hospital for two weeks, George O. (Pop) Philip, Kitchener, Ontario's grand old actor and veteran showman, is today quietly celebrating his 80th birthday at his home on the Preston Road.

Letters, telephone calls and telegrams from points all over

(Continued on Page 6)

Haight With RCAF

Lockwood Haight of the Art staff of Famous Players has enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

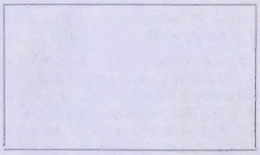
Pte. Art Arthur

Art Arthur, ex-Toronto newspaperman and well-known Hollywood scenarist, has closed his typewriter at Paramount and donned the uniform of the USA Army Air Force.

Berlin's Single Bills

As a consequence of renewed British Royal Air Force raids on Berlin all theatres and cinemas henceforth must end their shows by 7 p.m. at the latest.

More Than Meets the Eye



The empty space above represents a real brainwave on the part of Max Davies, manager of the Palace Theatre, London, Ontario. It appeared in the London Free Press and attracted outstanding attention.

The caption read "At the Palace" and the copy, which appeared beneath, said: "This is all you can see of Jon Hall after he takes an injection that makes him invisible in the latest picture, 'Invisible Agent,' which also stars Ilona Massey and Peter Lorre. This invisibility enables Jon to walk into Nazi inner sanctums and raise all kinds of dramatic thrills."

Margolius Is Booker

Mort Margolius, manager of the College, Toronto, has joined the head office booking staff of Famous Players. Mort succeeds Lou Karp, booker for Toronto suburban houses, who has joined the RCAF.

MPDA Moves Offices

The Canadian Motion Pictures Distributors Association has vacated the offices at 105 Bond St., and occupy new ones in the Birks Building at Shuter and Yonge sts.

Former Film Man On Ship That Sank Sub

Roy Lerner, who used to be with Grand National, was one of the seamen on the HMCS Port Arthur, the Corvette that sank an Italian submarine. The HMCS Port Arthur is a film star, having been used in an NFB short.

Films Essential, New USA Order

The USA War Manpower Commission's ruling to local draft boards, placing the motion picture industry in the essential group, is being hailed by film colony leaders as a major victory in the campaign to prove that the screen can go a long way towards aiding the victory effort. The decision

(Continued on Page 4)

Jail For Soldier Who Started Movie Fire

Pte. M. T. Mahar, Montreal soldier, was sentenced last week to two years in Dorchester penitentiary after being convicted at Halifax of attempted arson.

Five days after the tragic St. John's, Nfld., hut fire claimed 100 lives, Pte. Mahar was seen to drop a lighted cigarette in a mailbox while 500 soldiers watched a movie at a hostel.

Showmen Still Spark Russian Aid Fund

Though it has passed its original quota of $1,000,000 in the Dominion, Canadian Aid to Russia Fund is still going strong, with the Motion Picture Industry's end of the drive heading for a bangup finish.

The results of theatre enterprise in behalf of the fund are just beginning to become known. Sunday and special shows are being held more frequently than has been supposed and all of them are bringing in large chunks of cash.

Prince Edward Island theatres are co-operating in a big way with the Canadian Legion, which is sponsoring the fund in that province. The staffs of the F. G. Spencer Company theatres in Charlottetown ran a Sunday show and

(Continued on Page 4)

'Fighters' Bought For Big Production

Columbia has purchased the original story, "Night Fighters," by A. R. Beverley-Giddings, member of the British Ministry of Information in Washington.

Five top-ranking male stars will appear in the film, which deals with the adventures of the night fighters of the RAF, and is scheduled to be one of the most important Columbia films of the year.

Hit Parade! Republic's top-grossing de luxe production, starring GAIL PATRICK, EVE ARDEN, MELVILLE COOPER, WALTER CATLETT, GOLDEN GATE QUARTETTE, MUSIC MAIDS and other popular draws. With such great orchestras as FREDDY MARTIN'S, COUNT BASIE'S and RAY McKINLEY'S. With such hits as "Flying Tigers," "Icecapades Revue" and now HIT PARADE, Republic becomes a major studio. PLAY UNIVERSAL FOR GREATER PROFITS!

Film Weekly — Vol. 8, No. 7 — Feb. 10, 1943
HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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Psychopathic Report

That's the title of the report below, which is by Helen McCloy in "Morale Minutes," a USA publication:

Main Fact: Subject is a 56-year-old white male, still at large, who admits recurrent desires to kill or enslave everyone not a member of his own nation and political party.

Reaction Type: Paranoid. Aggressive desire to dominate.

Stability: Poor. Screams, weeps; reputed to chew rug on slightest provocation.

Social Habits: Unfriendly—especially during blood purges.

Religious Habits: Has sent numerous pastors and priests to firing squads and concentration camps, but identifies self with God.

Personal Habits: Vegetarian, teetotaller, bachelor—possibly celibate.

Case History: Mother, neurotic; father, illegitimate; home life, unhappy. Sleepwalked during childhood. Schooling, incomplete (see grammatical errors in German edition of "Mein Kampf," confusion of linguistic term "Aryan" with idea of race). Hysterical blindness (shell-shock) during World War I, indicating repressed personal fear, since compensated as protest and aggression against Germans, who sought Armistice in 1918. Failure as artist and housepainter.

Remarks: An individual is insane when he fails to adjust himself to society. This subject has inverted the process by imposing on the German people a society which fails to adjust itself to the individual. He has thus created an insane society exhibiting many symptoms of an insane individual—notably delusions of persecution and grandeur.

Prognosis: Incurable.

Recommendation: Environment should be modified at earliest possible moment. Either execution or permanent solitary confinement imperative.

Method of Carrying Out Recommendations: Buy War Bonds and Stamps.

★

Fill It In

By now you have received your ballot for Canadian Film Weekly's Annual Poll to determine the 10 best box-office pictures and players in the Dominion.

We think that it is important and valuable that these be revealed to exhibitors and the general public. Canada's film tastes are not necessarily those of the USA.

Critics and motion picture editors and commentators have also been mailed ballots to learn their opinions on what they consider to be the 10 best pictures and players.

Give it some thought, mark your ballot and mail it back in the postpaid envelope enclosed.

★

Show Drive for Fat Under Way

(Continued from Page 1)

don, Manitoba, caused over a ton and a half to be collected.

The Winnipeg and Brandon campaigns, part of Famous Players' end of the drive, are worth copying. In both instances, through arrangement with the schools, the material was brought to and piled up in the schoolyard, with the teachers handing out the ducats to deserving kids. Thus the theatre lobby was kept clear. It is well, if the admission price of two cans per kid is brought to the theatre, to have the assurance of the local Salvage officials that the lobby will be cleared immediately.

Managers are asked to seek the co-operation of their local papers and radio stations in promoting the campaign. A special Walt Disney short is among the screen fare available to assist in informing audiences of the need. References should be included in advertising of all sorts and the children should be addressed on the subject at preceding matinees.

Facts that should be pointed out to children and adults are that 100 pounds of fat yields 10 pounds of glycerine; 100 pounds of glycerine yields 780 pounds of high explosives or 600 pounds of cordite; 600 pounds of cordite will prope 6500 rounds of machine gun ammunition; and 100 pounds of glycerine will make 180 tank mines.

Every theatre is expected to do its share and action should be taken as soon as a means of collecting fat and piling it where it is out of the way is worked out with local Salvage officials.

Youth Yells 'Fire!' A Joke, He Says

Speedy work by the ushers of a downtown Calgary theatre averted a panic among patrons waiting in the entrance when a young boy shouted "Fire" last week and caused the people to rush to the exits.

City police said a 16-year-old youth, waiting admittance to the theatre, thought he would play a joke by shouting "Fire."

Ushers, who have been receiving special instruction from Assistant Chief John McKinnon, of the city fire department, speedily halted the crowd and convinced them there was no fire.

The boy was taken into custody.

The theatre manager said he did not wish any charges laid against the boy, who was released by police after a lecture, police said.

No Annual Check For Movie Houses

(Continued from Page 1)

tent municipal authority. Letters have been mailed to municipal officials advising them of future requirements, with a questionaire added. New provincial licenses are not due until May 31st.

The question of which places of assembly should be placed within the scope of the added requirements was the subject of several meetings between provincial and municipal officials. Because of the favorable record of theatres the proposal that they be included was dropped. This not only dismisses an additional worry but does away with an extra fee.

Several years ago, in behalf of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau, the Hydro undertook a check-up of all theatres. Immediate inspections are ordered where there is the slightest doubt as to the condition of wiring and so on.

Several Toronto theatres pay a $15 fee for a yearly Hydro inspection but this is a matter of choice.

Those halls in which movies are shown regularly have been found saisfactory in the past, stated O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau.

Loew's, London, Sold By Famous Players

Loew's, London, recently acquired by Famous Players when offered for sale, has been sold by that company to the Dundas Street London Amusement Co.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

February 10th, 1943 | COAST-TO-COAST COVERAGE | Vol. 8, No. 7

'Star Spangled Rhythm' Ace

'Stand By For Action' Meaty

"STAND BY FOR ACTION"
REGAL-MGM
(Running Time: 109 Minutes)

The movies' main majestic scene used to be that of wagon trains or prairie schooners crawling through a valley or up a mountain road, convoyed by scouts and brassy music indicating a date with destiny. Now it's a shot of a convoy ploughing through the deep.

"Stand By For Action" rides on the latter theme. It has its sea battles and noble speeches, the whole thing providing, by comparison, a great boost to "In Which We Serve."

Not that "Stand By For Action" is untinctured by boxoffice iodine. It has enough devices of proved appeal to please the family trade well. But mainly it is a parade of personalities that pay and situations of known qualities.

The talents and lure of Robert Taylor, Charles Laughton, Brian Donlevy, Walter Brennan, Douglas Dumbrille, Richard Quine and Henry O'Neil can't be gainsaid. Their joint presentation should be sufficient to assure satisfactory attendance.

Taylor is a snobbish officer who resents being switched from the brass hat category to serve on an over-age destroyer under Brian Donlevy, a plain guy from the ranks. They have their differences, which cause Taylor to favor prejudice over duty in several instances, endangering their mission. Eventually he sees the light, not having had to pay for his stupidity because of Donlevy's kindness in keeping the matter quiet.

Laughton as an American admiral has a pre-revolutionary Yankee accent—English, that is. Doesn't fit the part any too well. Donlevy gives his usual quiet and grim characterization. Walter Brennan, as an old sailor who gets back into service, shows all of them a thing or two about acting. But, then, that's the fault of the script.

There's no boy-girl stuff here and it needs it. Brennan's work and that part of the film dealing with a group of baby survivors picked up at sea provides the heart appeal.

BUSHELS OF STARS OFFER VARIETY ON SUPER SCALE

"STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM"
PARAMOUNT
(Running Time: 99 Minutes)

BOB HOPE

BING CROSBY

Paramount shows a screenful of stars in "Star Spangled Rhythm," in keeping with the current trend of offering them in bushels. The studio's collection is a prize lot and its treasure hunters seem to have overlooked none in their domestic search for name value. The result is variety on a vast scale. The entertainment is volcanic in quality and quantity.

Listing the stars on the screen should put pressure on the studio's raw stock resources. There's Crosby, Hope, Lamour, Ladd, Lake, Milland, Zorina, Tone, Goddard—. We'll have to stop now. Paper is also rationed. But we could go on and on.

The story is nothing more than a line on which to hang some high-class cinema washing. Victor Moore is the doddery old codger, a gateman on the Paramount lot, who tells sailor son Eddie Bracken that he's a studio big shot. He used to be a cowboy star and hesitates to tell the lad of his comedown. Betty Hutton, secretary of Walter Abel, a producer, talks Moore into posing as her boss. Bracken, in view of his father's exalted position, invites his shipmates to visit the studios. Hutton and Moore are hard put to keep the deception from the sailors and the boss.

BETTY HUTTON

The studio tour is, of course, the transmission belt on which the stars move into the picture. And, surprisingly, each gives the audience much more than a mere nod. Added to the numbers which they present or share, there are several new and novel night club acts. At times it's a positive screamplay and the addition of a swell musical score gives it an ace all-round rating.

This is one picture that will give the manager a laugh, since there's much inter-trade humor. The audience is offered the spectacle of the mighty DeMille being told one of his ideas stinks — with just that word being used.

There is a grand Harlem production number featuring Rochester and a patriotic pageant in which Crosby sings the sentiment. One skit, that of Betty Hutton climbing a wall assisted by two bystanders, is tops in slapstick. Hope, too, hits some kind of a comedy high in a showerbath scene with William Bendix.

The best way to describe "Star Spangled Rhythm" is to say that it's a worthy successor to "Road to Morocco." Perhaps even better fun. Certainly its drawing power should be greater than its hit predecessor.

SKY TROOPER

(RKO—Running Time: 8 Minutes)

Donald Duck is a speedy spud-peeler in this one, urged on with the promise of a chance to fly. Donald's doings always tie in with the times and Disney's creatures never attract censorship.

TIRE TROUBLE

(RKO—Running Time: 8 Minutes)

This hemisphere's ornery sweetheart, Donald Duck, suffers a blowout in his car. The fighting fowl gets into more trouble than the Nazis in Russia. It will help many a citizen laugh off his own tire trouble.

'Silver Skates' A1 Ice Opera

"SILVER SKATES"
MONOGRAM
(Running Time: 74 Minutes)

Score a loud clanging bull's-eye for Monogram. That minor studio has turned a major trick in its completed job of one of the most difficult types of films to record and photograph. "Silver Skates" is marked by technical excellence of sound and picturization. It is a richly flavored, heaping and appetizing dish of favorite winter fare.

"Silver Skates" is full of grand tunes, lovely and luscious ladies floating about airily on music and skates—and against sets that seem to thumb their noses at financial restrictions. It is forthright enough to come right out with iced entertainment as its big bet, leaving the story to follow at a respectful and satisfactory distance.

Production and camera work is skillful and the best of the artist is brought out, never once leaving the eye behind.

Though Kenny Baker, Patricia Morison and Joyce Compton are the players whose names mean something on the marquee, the work of the skating stars exceeds them and should cause considerable hearsay boosting.

One girl skater, Belita, is outstanding in all departments. Her acting is of a good quality and her skating is something to see. She's not just pretty. Even in her most difficult routines she retains her queenliness.

Also heart-warming as well as sensational is 10-year-old Irene Dare, even at this considerable distance a good bet for future Henie laurels. Frick and Frack offer a uniquely funny skating act. There are other names that mean more to skating fans than the movie variety. Once in, however, the movie fan will have no regrets. Ted Fio Rita and his Orchesta provide the music.

The story is the one about the troupe in difficulties, with the financial and romantic troubles fading away because the work of a new star and the realization of an impressario.

"Silver Skates" is an A1 iced cocktail.

Russ Aid Fund Keeps Rolling

(Continued from Page 1.)

donated their time, money and ideas to boost things, according to G. A. Walters.

Showmen in the Maritimes who are acting as city chairmen in the general campaign are Bob. Roddick of Halifax, Bill Guzner of Sydney Mines, Archie Mason of Springhill, and John Farr of North Sydney. Guzner and Farr deserve the highest praise for their personal generosity and the volume of their efforts. Another who deserves a bow is M. E. Walker of the Gaiety, Halifax, who gathered over $400 collecting in the lobby. Nova Scotia theatres have been very liberal in their contributions.

Ads for Sydney Mines theatres read, "Pay at least 40 cents—and more if you can" for the special shows.

Hard-working and popular Walter Helm of the Avon, Stratford, Ontario, is one of the town leaders in the $10,000 drive there. At the Strand, Haileybury, Ontario, a special screen and stage show contributed a good sum to the general town total of nearly $1000.

Lieut. Ed Harris and Ruth Spain Married

Odeon's Eddie Harris, who recently acquired a lieutenancy in the Canadian Army, was married two weeks ago to Miss Ruth Spain. Eddie is with the Army Show.

John Grierson

Canada's Film Commissioner, who has become general manager of the Wartime Information Board and as such its chief executive officer.

Going Around in Circles

Charlie Cashman, Photo-Engravers envoy to the trade, just discovered what a small world it is.

Brother Cashman's beat is On the Square, which is a rock's heave from his office. Neither movie business nor engraving being deemed essential by Ottawa, he found himself with a limited amount of gasoline. So he decided to sell his car.

Said car got a recent going-over to put it in first-rate shape. A dealer gave him $500 for it.

As some of you know, Charlie's son, Ken, now shares the beat with his dad. Ken has taken over much of his dad's pavement pounding and, not being any too solid on his underpinning, decided he needed a car.

Both Cashmans repaired to a used car lot, told a dealer their desires and were shown some candidates for the job. Noting them not impressed, the dealer went into a six-star rave about a certain car on the lot. In perfect shape, he said it was, the man who formerly owned it having spent much on it and so on.

He escorted them to the automotive rarety. It was Charlie's old car—and he was asked $875 for it!

"I guess," said Charlie in telling the yarn, "I'm in the wrong business."

* * * *

Jim Did It Earlier

Last week I reported the use of the line, "One Day Nearer Victory" by a Hamilton man as worthy of being repeated. I learned since from Ben Geldsaler that James P. O'Loghlin, head man over at 20th-Fox, has been using just that phrase since the war began! Jim's letters carry it in red capital letters.

* * * *

A Good Catchline

There's a wrongo around the district occasionally who bears the nickname, unknown to himself, of Rain Check. That's because he entered life on a rain check—in this case someone else's dough. Too bad the silver spoon he was born with didn't choke him at birth. You know the tripe—ritz-raff.

Rain Check usually has a drink or two too much under his belt, which causes him to be somewhat irksome to gentlemen of superior muscularity. He has been saved from a hand-tooled job on his cover by sundry gentlemen, who apparently fawn on him for his negotiable peanuts. They duck him out of range.

Mind you, Rain Check is no bum. He keeps a job by the grace of gentlemen who, it seems to me in this case, regard government institutions as their private playground for paying off sentimental and hereditary obligations.

Anyway, the other day Rain Check was poisoning the atmosphere with his presence when a witty critic came out with the best crack of all.

"It's a good thing," this guy said, "that, by the grace of Fate, Rain Check's father was born before him. Otherwise Rain Check would have starved to death by now!"

* * * *

Bones, Notches, Signor!

Mussolini, they say, wired Hitler: "Send food."
Hitler answered: "Tighten belt."
Mussolini replied: "Send belt."

Which reminds me: Last week Hitler's Labor Commissioner, Fritz Sauckel, issued a decree mobilizing all Germans from 16 to 65 for national defence. After reviewing the recent actions of President Roosevelt, he said, "All this means for us another proof that Roosevelt is serious and earnest in his threats against us."

Apparently recent Allied bombings have blasted holes in the German way of thinking. Sauckel just realized that Roosevelt wasn't kidding.

Films Essential, New USA Order

(Continued from Page 1.)

handed down through Selective Service channels became effective last week and will definitely aid 1943 production schedules which had been seriously threatened because of dwindling manpower.

Though no blanket deferment has been granted to the technical people involved, the stipulation that consideration will be given to all those who cannot be replaced with less than six months' training indicated that further clarification of the ruling will be forthcoming.

The WMC said that requests for deferments must be made by the studios. There has been considerable talk of formation of a management-labor committee to pass on applications for deferment before they are sent on to the Selective Service Boards. The WMC said this would be entirely up to the studios, as all requests for such deferment must be made by them. They added that considerable confusion and disagreement might be eliminated by including labor, as the latter would be better qualified to pass on the qualifications of its own members and their possible replacement.

First list of essential occupations included animator, films editors, cutters, cameramen, sound technicians, electricians, laboratory technicians, technical writer, technical consultant and project supervisor. Occupations of persons engaged full time and exclusively in the production of technical and vocational training films for the Army, Navy and War production industries also were included.

It is understood that the amended list includes practically all artists and technicians in the industry with the exception of actors who asked not to be included.

Tierney, Schwegler Prisoners of War

Word has been received that Glen Schwegler, formerly of the staff of the Imperial, Toronto, and Flight-Sergeant Francis Tierney, who was on the staff of the Regent, Brockville, Ontario, are prisoners of war.

Schwegler was first reported killed at Dieppe, where he fought with the Royal Regiment, but later news revealed that he was captured and that his left leg was amputated at a hospital in Rouen.

Tierney, who enlisted in 1940, was downed three times. The last time he was wounded and fell into enemy hands. He was married in England last June.

Tierney's brother, Bernard, who was on the Regent staff, enlisted in the RCAF recently.

Now!

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Annual Poll

of

Exhibitors, Managers and Critics for 1942-43 Season

TO DETERMINE 10 BEST PICTURES AND STARS

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What did You do?

BY CANADIAN SHOWMEN FOR CANADIAN SHOWMEN

RALPH TIEDE, manager of the Community, Welland, got over a good one to ensnare the interest of showgoers in "South American George."

Ralph had his printer cut a large ad mat into small irregular patterns. These he had printed on a herald in the form of a jigsaw puzzle. Copy and instructions went with it. The first 15 turning in the correct solution got free tickets.

* * *

TO introduce "Jacare" to the kids Bob Brown of the Vanity, Windsor, got the Board of Education to allow him to invite its Safety Patrol Committee to see it. He has been assured that its stay at his theatre will be announced to all the classes.

* * *

PRESTON FOSTER, Community, Hamilton, dug up a new field of patronage on such an oldtimer as "The Great Waltz." He interested a number of church choirs in seeing the musical film.

* * *

IN advertising "Captains of the Clouds," John Kurk of the Royal, North Bay, plugged the local angle in every possible manner. Teaser ads were run in the local papers for four days and window cards were spotted in and around the city and district. On Friday and Saturday a three-page co-operative spread appeared in the local papers with plenty of reader and picture space, along with a plug at the top of the movie column. Radio announcements and an ad on the co-operative contest page were secured free. For a follow-up on Monday, John lined up an ad for the WAAF's reading, "Women who join Canada's Air Force enable more men to become 'Captains of the Clouds'."

A special Sunday evening showing of the film is being arranged for the local staff of the RCAF and the RAF Ferry Command, photographs of which appeared in the news columns of the local papers. The young lady who doubled for Brenda Marshall in the picture, also attended the screening. One or two Air Women were on duty at the theatre during the regular run. A huge Air Force flag has been arranged atop the marquee as a result of a tieup with the Recruiting Office.

THE special showing of "Commandos Strike at Dawn" arranged for 600 soldiers at the Marks, Oshawa, Ontario, was held in real Commando weather. A severe sleet storm didn't stop the troops from parading to the theatre at the invitation of Manager Stewart Gillespie.

Two army trucks bearing "Commando" banners accompanied the boys to and from the theatre. The local papers made considerable comment about it and the parade stopped the lunch hour crowds.

Stewart says that he's getting a surprising amount of soldier business in spite of the free show. The boys seem to want to see how those with advanced training do it.

Managers' Group In Hamiton, Ont.

Meeting at the Royal Connaught Hotel last week, theatre managers of Hamilton, Ontario, organized the Hamilton Theatre Managers' Association. George Stroud, veteran manager of the Palace, who acted as temporary chairman, was elected to the presidency.

The objects of the new organization, as outlined, are the promotion of war charities and the betterment of business relations through an interchange of ideas.

The officers, elected by the board of directors, who will serve with Mr. Stroud are A. C. Stock, vice-president; and Mrs. Jean Gregory, secretary.

The directors are George Stroud, Palace; Lloyd Gurr, Century; Harold Braden, Jr., Kenilworth, Kenmore and Regent; Mrs. Jean Gregory; Windsor, York and Royal; A. C. Stock, Delta, Queen's and Empire; and Anthony Patzaleck, Playhouse.

The meeting was well attended.

Theatre Staffs Mark Joe Paul's Birthday

The combined staffs of the Park and Community theatres gathered at the Park theatre, Welland, Ont., Saturday night at a jolly surprise party in honor of the manager, J. J. Paul, who was celebrating his birthday. A delicious supper was serveed and the decorated table was centred by a huge birthday cake. Entertainment was provided by the members of the staffs. Tom Forhan, manager of the Capitol theatre, and Jack Trotter also attended.

Geo. 'Pop' Philip Reaches Eighty

(Continued from Page 1)

Ontario and parts of the United States poured in on him all day. Many were from former associates of the theatrical world that brought back memories of "East Lynn," "Silver King" and "The Cricket."

The man who actually brought the stage with all its best productions, and the theatre with its outstanding pictures to Kitchener in the days when it was called Berlin, looks back on a long career studded with triumphs, happiness and a touch of pathos.

Always a master showman, "Pop" was married in 1883 before a packed theatre in front of the footlights to the reigning queen of the stage at that time, Minnie Estrelle. Pop recalls how they trouped together, sometimes for one-night stands, when an actor's and later for long runs at popular life was a series of short hops, theatres. Mrs. Philip passed away five years ago.

A good many years ago Pop remodelled the old McKenna livery stable to give Kitchener its first theatre, the Berlin Opera House. Later he acquired a string of theatres in different parts of Ontario and vaudeville and stage shows produced a thriving business. After taking over a cigar store and more or less retiring from show business, Pop was elected several times to the City Council.

A love of bands induced the veteran actor, during the height of his career, to bring the Coldstream Guards band to the city for a one-day performance. It cost him over $500 for the day but he got his money's worth out in front of the band leading the parade.

Looking at the world situation today, Pop optimistically prophesied that the Axis powers would capitulate before the year is over. He hasn't been able to get out and discuss world affairs with his friends but he figured from the newspaper stories that Germany is on the way to defeat.

"It's just a matter of a short time," he said, "before people will be able to get back to normal again so they can think of such things as children, families and entertainment."

Sheehan's 'Rick' Story

Winfield Sheehan, outstanding as a picture producer until he dropped out a while ago, will be back with the life story of Captain Ed Rickenbacker, whose plane wreck got international attention. Twentieth Century-Fox will handle it.

One Day Closing In USA Houses

American theatres, particularly those in New England states, are closing for one day each week because of the fuel oil shortage. Though the government recently agreed to release coal to theatres which need it badly, a good percentage have oil heating systems and have not had time to convert to the former method of heating theatres.

Connecticut theatres have worked out a plan of varying closing, each circuit closing on one agreed day during the week. Last week American oil controllers in Massachusetts decreed that no fuel oil was to be delivered to Boston theatres for one day. That was the first of a number of similar orders to follow when necessary.

Many houses have cut off matinees, a practice during the last war.

Conversion to coal heating has occupied many exhibitors in Canada as well as the United States.

Cut in Beer Hours Boosts Windsor BO

Smaller Windsor, Ontario, houses are definitely benefitting from the curtailmeent of beverage room hours, managers report. The beer halls have been closing early enough to cause customers to look elsewhere for fun. The theatres are getting a good many of them.

Exhorbitant asking price for illegal booze is keeping them out of dives.

Peggy Ryan, 17-year old singing-dancing comedienne, who won her screen spurs in Universal pictures, and who has just been elevated to full stardom because of her performance in Universal's newest musical hit, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

Producer Sol Lesser and the United Service Organizations of the USA have a real hands-across-the-border attitude. They will allow a percentage of the Canadian profits of "Stage Door Canteen" to remain here and be distributed among war service benefits. This is a real example of comradeship, considering that the USO put up the money for its production and solicited the free services of more than 100 stars. Katharine Cornell, queen of the legitimate drama, who has resisted Hollywood's call for years, will make her screen debut in the film. It is quite possible that she will appear in future pictures. It took a day to shoot the scene Miss Cornell will appea- in and, when finished, she said, "This has been one of the most adventurous days of my life.

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Rising high and fast in the film firmanent is 20-year-old and blonde Betty Hutton. Her rampagious rendition of songs and her rough-and-ready comedy make her a standout in two new Technicolor films, "Happy Go Lucky" and "Star Spangled Rhythm." She's a looker, too. And not shy about her talents. Resolved that entertainment was to be her future field of endeavour, at 14 Betty organized an orchestra of kids from her home town, toured the district and practically forced Vincent Lopez, the orchestra leader, to catch her act. P.S. She got the job. P.P.S. She's been getting one after the other ever since—at $1,500 per week.

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When the great American army show, "This is the Army," which was written and is starred in by songwriter Irving Berlin, visited Detroit, quite a few of the cast slipped across the river to Detroit to entertain the wounded Windsor heroes of Dieppe, Mrs. Irving Berlin accompanied them, the only woman in the party, and wept. . . . Canadian movie theatres are holding special shows to gather fat under arrangement with local Boards of Education. Children get a free ticket after bringing two cans of fat renderings or drippings to school. In Winnipeg 40 theatres participated and gathered 20 tons of fat, which means about 4,000 pounds of glycerine to give to Hitler when and where he hates it most.

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Another interesting campaign in which your theatre will play a part will be one to boost Victory Gardens when winter breaks up. The food problem, increasing with the growth of the armed strength of Canada and the Allies, makes it necessary to take every means of raising agricultural production. Theatres will be the center of community meetings devoted to discussion and instruction. The screen will also tell the story. . . . "The G-String Murders," the book by Burlesque queen Gypsy Rose Lee, will be made into a film called "Lady of Burlesque" . . . Ingrid Bergman, who won stardom overnight through her performance in "Intermezzo," will have the lead in the film version of Edna Ferber's novel, "Saratoga Trunk."

* * *

Latest variation of the gag about the cadger and the cup of coffee: One man stops another on the street and asks him for $376 for a cup of coffee. "Why," said the man asked, "a cup of coffee still costs only a dime." "Sure," answered the panhandler, "but I've got to go to Brazil to get it!" . . . Latest Hollywood hardship: Empty swimming pools because of a chlorine shortage. . . . Alfred Hitchcock's next film, "Lifeboat," will be his first in Technicolor . . . William S. Hart, famous old time Western star, has willed that his 300-acre ranch, Hill of the Winds, become a museum of the Old West "to pay back part of the debt I owe the public" . . . Orson Wells and Linda Darnell created quite a sensation riding around Hollywood in a horse-and-buggy.

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In the new Bob Hope-Dorothy Lamour picture, "They Got Me Covered" you'll have your first look at 22-year-old, Yugoslavian-born and Vienna-raised Lenore Aubert. She speaks eight languages, is beautiful and has a commanding presence. Her English, though charming, is certainly not accurate. One day, on the set, she said to Bob Hope, who was all dressed up in sports clothes: "Bob, you look tacky as a shark." The on-the-bit Bob, who knows slang and double talk well, couldn't make that one out. Then it came to him that Lenore was trying to tell him he looked "sharp as a tack"—a compliment. The new star got out of Austria ahead of Hitler, worked in Hollywood as a dress model until discovered.

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